AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid [[by]] comprising: oxidizing dimethylnaphthalene with oxygen in air in a reactor and in the presence of acetic acid solvent, using the metal catalysts of cobalt and manganese, and using bromine as a reaction initiator,

wherein the oxidizing reaction is carried out in the range of 155 to 180° C with adding and in the presence of a gas selected from the group of nitrogen gas, off-gas and a mixture thereof into an upper portion of [[a]] said reactor, which the off-gas has oxygen with low concentration by pre-oxidation to yield a naphthalene dicarboxylic acid.

2.   (Original) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein said naphthalene dicarboxylic acid is 2, 6-naphthalene dicarboxylic acid.

3.   (Original) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the concentration of said metal catalysts of cobalt and manganese is 1000 ppm to 6000 ppm in acetic acid.

4.   (Original) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of said metal catalysts of cobalt and manganese is 2:1 to 25:1.

5.   (Original) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the molar ratio of said bromine to the metal catalysts of cobalt and manganese is 0.1:1 to 0.8:1.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the residence time of said acetic acid and ~~the produced~~ said naphthalene dicarboxylic acid in the reactor is 30 to 120 min.

7. (Original) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the weight ratio of said air to dimethylnaphthalene is 4:1 to 15:1.

8. (New) The method for the preparation of naphthalene dicarboxylic acid of claim 1, wherein the off-gas has an oxygen concentration lowered by pre-oxidation in the upper portion of said reactor.